

Message

From: Ides, Nan [Ides.Nan@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/18/2018 4:24:27 PM
To: Riccio, Roberta [Riccio.Roberta@epa.gov]; Cohen, Amy [Cohen.Amy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

Thanks!

Nan L. Ides
Water Protection Division
Mid-Atlantic Region
Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Ides.nan@epa.gov
215-814-5546

From: Riccio, Roberta
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Cohen, Amy <Cohen.Amy@epa.gov>; Ides, Nan <Ides.Nan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

Yes I did it already – I'll go back in and add date that Amy spoke to her.

Roberta Riccio
Ground Water and Enforcement Branch (3WP22)
US EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.814.3107
Riccio.roberta@epa.gov

From: Cohen, Amy
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Ides, Nan <Ides.Nan@epa.gov>
Cc: Riccio, Roberta <Riccio.Roberta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

Im pretty sure Roberta did it, I gave her all the dets. But if youre saying its still not addressed I'll double check with her.

From: Ides, Nan
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:59 AM
To: Cohen, Amy <Cohen.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

About Mountaire. Can you make sure that Jim or whoever has access to RAV enters a synopsis of your discussion with Personal Matters / Ex. 6

If you want, send a short write-up to me, and I can enter it into RAV.

Thanks
Nan

Nan L. Ides
Water Protection Division
Mid-Atlantic Region
Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Ides.nan@epa.gov
215-814-5546

From: Cohen, Amy
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Ides, Nan <Ides.Nan@epa.gov>; Bennett, James <bennett.james@epa.gov>; Riccio, Roberta <Riccio.Roberta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

I spoke with Personal Matters / Ex. 6 last Friday

From: Ides, Nan
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Bennett, James <bennett.james@epa.gov>; Cohen, Amy <Cohen.Amy@epa.gov>; Riccio, Roberta <Riccio.Roberta@epa.gov>
Subject: Montaire Farms article - what was done with the RAV complaint

Mountaire Farms addresses Millsboro-area water woes

DELAWARE PUBLIC MEDIA Mountaire Farms met with Millsboro-area residents Wednesday night to start a public dialogue about frustrations regarding elevated nitrate levels in residential wells. The company said it understands residents' worries, but it doesn't believe wastewater treatment problems at its Millsboro facility are to blame for high nitrates that contaminated residents' drinking water, said Mountaire Farms' Executive Vice President of Processing Operations Mike Tirrell. "Science says the upset that we experienced at Mountaire did not contribute to the high nitrate levels of the local residential wells," he told Delaware Public Media. Mountaire brought experts to the meeting who said Sussex County has historically high levels of nitrates. Personal Matters / Ex. 6, a licensed professional geologist in Delaware, said groundwater moves north to south. The majority of affected properties, including homes north of the Indian River, east of Millsboro and south of Route-24 are not downgradient of Mountaire's spray fields and could not be affected by groundwater movement from those fields, he said. "It's really slow," said Personal Matters / Ex. 6 on the groundwater's movement. "And this is to be expected, which means that even if – and there's no databases to think that groundwater from this upset was headed in the directions of these homes – it would take years and years and years to get there at all." Tirrell says Mountaire wants to be a good neighbor and is again offering to drill deeper wells for residents. Millsboro resident Personal Matters / Ex. 6 says he won't take Mountaire up on its offer. "If they drill it, are they going to check it every month to make sure the iron, the nitrates are fine? That's my biggest concern," Personal Matters / Ex. 6 said. The company says more than 10 other residents have talked with them about deeper wells. Many residents and local environmentalists who made public comments at the meeting lashed out at Mountaire, their elected officials and Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. They criticized the way things were handled by the state and Mountaire, asking why communication didn't start sooner. "You're my neighbor. You're a respectable business. Why?... Why didn't you stop by? Why didn't you call? Why didn't you put a paper at my door? Why?" Millsboro resident Personal Matters / Ex. 6 asked. Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Personal Matters / Ex. 6 a consultant with the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project, spoke on behalf of many residents who wonder if health problems they've developed such as asthma, or miscarriages, are connected to elevated nitrates in their drinking water. "This is a minority community, it's a low income community, these are people that are overburdened with pollution, they have no political power, no political voice," Personal Matters / Ex. 6 said. "We intend on changing that." Some residents also criticized DNREC for not issuing a fine along with the notice of violation from November. DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin told Delaware Public Media a longterm ongoing investigation will yield whether or not a fine is necessary. "We are still involved in that process and can't really say much more about that, but it is an ongoing investigation," Garvin said...

Nan L. Ides
Water Protection Division
Mid-Atlantic Region
Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Ides.nan@epa.gov
215-814-5546